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VETERANS' AFFAIRS
Oversight

February 27, 2007

The Honorable Bob Filner
Chairman
Committee on Veterans Affairs
335 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am very troubled by recent news reports about the care and treatment of wounded servicemen and women at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

These reports detailed cases of outpatient soldiers who underwent their recovery in squalid conditions, servicemembers and their families who were forced to maneuver through a jungle of bureaucratic paperwork in order to receive attention, and standards of care that were clearly inadequate to soldiers suffering from psychological trauma. These conditions are unacceptable for any American and particularly for those who have served and sacrificed so bravely for their country.

Mr. Chairman, I believe we should take this opportunity to investigate not only the conditions at Walter Reed, but also the effect these conditions have on the VA system as a whole. I respectfully request that you hold a hearing of the Veterans' Affairs Committee to examine whether the treatment these active duty servicemen and women receive at Walter Reed puts an additional strain on VA medical facilities after they retire.

America's veterans have sacrificed a great deal for this country. Congress must exercise its oversight power to ensure they are receiving the best possible care.

Sincerely,

Tim Walz
Member of Congress